

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0027] with the following:

[0027] Referring to Figure 2, an exemplary parallel configuration of VMMs 210 through 214 is illustrated. According to this configuration, control transfers from a VM to a specific VMM when a privileged event occurs during the operation of a VM. The specific VMM is identified based on certain criteria as will be discussed in more detail below. Once the specific VMM is identified, the information pertaining to the virtualization event is delivered to this VMM, and control is transitioned to it. For example, privileged event 1 occurring during the operation of VM 202 may cause transition from VM 202 to VMM 210, privileged event 2 occurring during the operation of VM 202 may cause transition from VM 202 to VMM 212, privileged event 3 occurring during the operation of VM 206 may cause transition from VM 206 to VMM 212, and privileged event 4 occurring during the operation of VM 206 may cause transition from VM 206 to VMM 214. A corresponding VMM then handles the virtualization event and may transfer control back to a VM from which the control was received. In one embodiment, the transfer of control from a VMM (e.g., VMM 210, VMM 212 or VMM 214) to a VM (e.g., VM 202, VM 204, VM 206, or VM 208) is achieved by executing a special instruction. The transfer of control from a VMM to a VM is referred to herein as a VM entry and the transfer of control from a VM to a VMM is referred to herein as a VM exit.

Please replace paragraph [0038] with the following:

[0038] Figure 5 illustrates an exemplary usage of process 400 shown in Figure 4 in a virtual machine environment having two VMMs, according to one embodiment of the present invention. One of the two VMMs (e.g., VMM 508) is exclusively designated to handle certain

platform events (e.g., system management interrupts (SMIs), IPIs, non-maskable interrupts, etc.). VMM 508 is referred to as the Platform VMM (PVMM). In some embodiments, the PVMM is designated to handle only SMIs. In other embodiments, PVMMs handle additional event types, as well as SMIs. In yet other embodiments, multiple PVMMs are used, each handling different platform events.